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made and repealed with such precipitation that it is most frequently impossible to study their influence."

These words deserve to be written in letters of gold. They point to an evil whose tendency is to degrade social policy from the list of sciences of observation and experiment to the rank of an empirical art. *Avant nous le Chaos ! Après nous le Déluge !* should be the motto of that statecraft which, under a momentary sense of pressure from those whom even the uneasiness of change makes restless and impatient, urges on the social movement faster than a sound philosophy can count the revolutions of its mechanism or register the work accomplished ; or of that which, by the simultaneous alteration of every condition, makes the separate estimation of any single effect hopelessly impracticable.

HOME AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

WESTMINSTER AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

Established 1836.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

THE Directors have much pleasure in meeting the Members on this the Sixth Quinquennial General Meeting of the Association, as it is their agreeable duty to report that the Accounts show the result of the business for the last five years to have been the most favourable which has occurred for any similar period since the establishment of the Association.

The Association during that period has progressed steadily, though not with any marked rapidity. The number of New Policies issued since 1862 having been 900, assuring £363,947., the New Premiums on which have been £12,306. 10s. 10d.

The total Income of the Association has increased from £34,769., in 1861, to £42,830., in 1866; £68,794. has been added to the assets, the funds of the Association having increased from £188,786. to £257,580., as shown by the accounts appended.

143 Policies have become Claims, assuring £73,263. 18s. 4d. on 120 lives. On these Policies there has been a further sum of £3722. 2s. 2d. paid for Bonus additions, making the total amount paid £76,986. 0s. 6d. On this occasion, at the last periodical division, the Directors have to observe that the average sum assured by the Policies which have become Claims exceeds the average sum assured by the Policies of the Association generally.

£13,097. 8s. 6d. has been received for the purchase of 33 Immediate Annuities, amounting to £1241. 0s. 2d.; on this branch of business, the Directors have to report, that hitherto the result has been very favourable to the Association.

The careful Investment of the Funds of the Association has constantly occupied the attention of the Directors, and they believe the Securities selected are in all respects sound, and are such as to combine perfect safety with a fair and remunerative rate of Interest. The average rate of Interest on the Productive Funds of the Association is £4. 5s. 11d. per Cent.

The valuation of the assets and liabilities is, on this occasion, made on the same principles as on all previous occasions, viz.,—the valuations of the Policies are based on the Carlisle Table of Mortality, assuming the rate of Interest at which the funds of the Association will accumulate to be 3 per Cent.; none of the future profits are anticipated, and ample reserves are made for all future management expenses. It will be seen, by reference to the accounts, that the amount reserved, in addition to the premiums hereafter to be received, as the fund to provide for the payment of the existing Policies, as they may become Claims, is £211,786.

The amount of profit now divisible, after making all the reserves above referred to, is £27,348. 5s. 10d. The Deed of the Association provides that of this amount £2734 16s. 7d. be carried to the Guarantee Fund, and that a similar sum be divided as a Bonus among the Shareholders. After making these provisions, the balance, £21,878. 12s. 8d., will allow of an average reversionary addition being made to all Policies entitled to participate in profits of about 40 per Cent. on the premiums paid since the last division.

State of Accounts on the 31st day of December, 1866.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
* Shareholders Paid-up Capital, with Additions thereto, to be ultimately paid to them according to the provisions of the Deed of Settlement . .	10000	0	0
Value of the outstanding and existing Policies, Assuring £815644., entitled to participate in profits, including the Sum of £71682. 12s. 4d. reserved for Expenses and future Profits	157955	9	6
Value of £21184. 3s. 4d. the Additions made to the Sums Assured by the above Policies	13872	15	0
Value of the outstanding and existing Policies Assuring £173018. not entitled to participate in Profits, including Annuities and the Sum of £9761. 0s. 11d. reserved for Expenses and future Profits	39957	18	2
Interest to Shareholders on the Guarantee Fund for the year 1866 . . .	420	4	10
Due to Shareholders, Arrears of Interest	27	2	5
Unpaid Accounts	307	16	11
Bonuses on Policies to be received in Cash not yet paid	102	7	3
Unpaid Claims	6086	6	0
Annuities due but unpaid	99	19	4
One Quarter's Ground Rent to the Duke of Bedford	21	10	0
Redemption Account for No. 28, King Street, Covent Garden	248	18	8
	229100	8	1
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	28479	19	1
	<u>£257580</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>
From excess of Assets over Liabilities	28479	19	1
Deduct amount reserved for future Assurance Guarantee Fund	1131	13	3
Clear Surplus now divisible	<u>£27348</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>

* N.B.—The above Account is debited with £10,000, the full sum to be paid to the Shareholders out of the Guarantee Fund when that Fund shall amount to £110,000.

Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Guarantee Fund—						
£3980. 3 per Cent. Consols, at the cost price.....	3679	3	3			
6000. Railway Debenture Stock „	6000	0	0			
300. 3/8 India 5 per Cent. Stock „	320	16	9			
Reserved for Proprietors.....	10000	0	0			
1058. 16/4 India 5 per Cent. Stock at the cost price—Reserved for future Assurance Guarantee Fund.....	1131	13	3			
				11131	13	3
Assurance Fund—						
Advanced on Mortgage	68270	0	0			
£25000. New 3 per Cent. Annuities—at the cost price	23358	15	0			
19000. 3 per Cent. Consols „	17780	1	4			
6000. 3 per Cent. Reduced Stock „	5707	10	0			
50000. Railway Debenture Stock, at par.....	50000	0	0			
Advanced on Debenture Bonds „	47000	0	0			
Advanced on Security of Policies	13589	4	8			
Cash on Deposit at Bankers	3500	0	0			
Cash at Bankers and in the hands of the Actuary	2706	12	7			
Balances in hands of Agents	2030	4	6			
Premiums due, but unreceived, including unpaid Installments of Annual Premiums on Policies, renewable half-yearly and quarterly	3648	11	1			
Value of Policies for Re-Assurances	1600	0	0			
Premises No. 28, King Street, Covent Garden	4218	15	5			
Value of Furniture in ditto	500	0	0			
Dividends on Consols and India 5 per Cent. Stock, payable January 1867	372	7	5			
Interest on Debenture Stock and Bonds, payable January 1867	1952	0	1			
Interest on Mortgages due 31st December, 1866	189	5	10			
Rent of Chambers due 31st December, 1866	12	12	0			
Interest on Current Account with the Union Bank of London.....	12	14	0			
				246448	13	11
				£257580	7	2

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Sixth Septennial Investigation.

The Proprietors are aware that, according to the bye-laws of the Company, the Septennial investigation into the affairs of the Company required to be made as at 30th December 1865, in order that the result of the Life Business since the last period of investigation at 31st December 1858 might be ascertained and reported.

Before stating the results of this Investigation, it may be interesting to contrast the amount of business done by the Company between the periods included in the present and the preceding Investigations.

* * * *

Life Business.

In the LIFE BUSINESS, the number of Policies issued, the Sums Assured, and the Premiums received during the same two periods are as under:—

For the period 1851 to 1858—

	No. of Policies.	Sums Assured.	Premiums.
1852	259	£256,327	£9,000 18 6
1853	318	237,103	8,098 17 9
1854	528	303,455	10,340 18 2
1855	423	292,978	9,979 19 8
1856	392	274,274	9,061 14 9
1857	325	276,931	8,299 16 6
1858	455	377,425	12,565 18 8
	<u>2700</u>	<u>£2,018,493</u>	<u>£67,348 4 0</u>

Being an average of 386 in the number of Policies issued, and £288,356 per annum of the Sums Assured.

For the period 1858 to 1865—

	No. of Policies.	Sums Assured.	Premiums.
1859	605	£449,913	£14,070 1 6
1860	741	475,649	14,071 17 7
1861	785	527,626	16,553 2 9
1862	870	622,224	18,872 9 8
1863	1071	953,839	33,002 14 0
1864	1242	1,035,906	32,168 19 7
1865	1486	1,018,707	34,041 6 4
	<u>6800</u>	<u>£5,083,864</u>	<u>£162,780 11 5</u>

Being an average of 971 in the number of Policies issued, and £726,266 per annum of the Sums Assured.

Results of Investigation.

In proceeding to carry out the Septennial Investigation, the Directors have been anxious as formerly, that it should be based on the safest principles. The method adopted in the valuation of the Policies has been precisely the same as was followed in the years 1844, 1851, and 1858, and the surplus brought out arises entirely from the profits on the business for the Septennial period ending 30th December last; and as the whole loading or addition to the Premiums has been deducted, no part of the future profits has been anticipated.

The number of Policies subsisting at 31st December last was 8889, assuring £6,369,482, exclusive of 31 Policies assuring £3318 per annum of Deferred and Survivorship Annuities.

The value of the Company's liability under these was	£823,778 4 6
To which must be added the value of the Bonuses or Additions declared up to 31st December 1858	138,930 6 10
Value of Deferred and Survivorship Annuity Policies	5,056 8 9
Amount of Claims outstanding as at 31st December last	5,614 15 9
	<u>£973,379 15 10</u>
From which falls to be deducted the value of Policies and Bonuses, applicable to £832,359 reassured	105,011 19 0
	<u>£868,367 16 10</u>
Add—Reserve for Contingencies	9,598 17 6
Total Liabilities	<u>£877,966 14 4</u>

The Assets in the Life Department were . . .	£1,028,377	2	1
Deduct the above Liabilities	877,966	14	4
Leaving a surplus of	£150,410	7	9

According to the principle of division adopted at last Septennial Investigation nine-tenths of the above surplus belong to the parties assured on the participating scale, and the Directors have thus been enabled to declare a Bonus of 25s. per cent per annum on all sums assured with profits. This is in many instances equivalent to £1 : 18s. per cent. per annum on the original sum assured, in consequence of the present Bonus being declared not only on the original sum assured, but also on the previous Bonus additions.

The Directors would further recommend that the usual Prospective Bonus of one per cent per annum should be paid on all Policies existing at 31st December last, which may become claims prior to the next Division of Profits.

The Bonus and Prospective Bonus are not payable on any Policy which has not been five years in existence.

The remaining tenth part of the surplus belongs to the Proprietors, and has been carried to the accumulated fund of undivided profits. To this fund also has to be added the profit arising upon the result of the annuity transactions during the Septennial period, amounting to £9211 : 14 : 11.

* * * *

Several complaints having been made of the long interval which elapses between the periods of investigation, the Directors have resolved to meet this objection by altering the period at which the investigation and declaration of Bonus takes place from a Septennial to a Quinquennial period.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

A Treatise upon the Law of Life Assurance, upon the constitution of Assurance Companies, the construction of their Deeds of Settlement, the sale of Reversionary Interests, and Equitable Lives arising in connection with Life Policies: with an Appendix of Precedents for the Assignment of Policies by way of sale, mortgage, and settlement; Notes of Cases; Statutes; and an Index of Private Acts obtained by Insurance Companies. By CHARLES JOHN BUNYON, M.A., of the Inner Temple, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. London: Charles and Edwin Layton, 150, Fleet Street.

It is now fifteen years since Mr. Bunyon first published his "Law of Life Assurance"; and the changes which have subsequently taken place in the law, both through the action of the legislature and through the decisions of the Courts of Justice, have been so numerous and so important, that the work had become quite out of date and of comparatively little practical value. It had consequently become absolutely necessary that a second edition of the work should be published, if Mr. Bunyon was to retain the